

To the Kinges most excellent Majestie
Grievances.

Most gracious Sovereigne, your Majesties most humble commons assembled in Parliament being moved; as wel out of their dutie and zeale to your Majestie; as out of the sense of iust grieve wherewith your loving subiects are generally through the whole Realme at this tyme possessed, because they perceive their comon & ancient right & libertie to be much declinid, & infringid in these late yeares, Doe with all dutie & humilitie present these our iust complaints thereof to your gracieous viewe, most instantly craving justice therein and due redresse. And although it be true, that many of the particulars, whereof we now complaine, were in some use in the late Queenes time, & then not much impugned, because the usage of them, being then more moderate, gave not so great occasion of offence, and consequently not so much cause to inquire into the right and validite of them. Yet the right being now more throughly scanned, by reason of the great mischiefe, and inconveniences which the subiects have thereby sustainted, wee are very confident, that your Majestie wilbe so farre from thinking it a point of honour, or greatnes to continue any grievance vpon your people, because you found them begun in some of your Predecessors times; as you will rather hold it a work of great glorie to reforme them, since your Majestie knoweth well, that neyther continuance of time, nor errours of men, can or ought to prejudice truth of iustice; and that nothing can be more worthy of so worthy a King, nor

more answerable to the great wisdome ; and goodness
which abound in you, then to understand the grieses, &
redresse the wrongs of so loyall , and well deserving a
people . In this confidence (dread seversaigne) we offer
their grievances (the particulars whereof are hereunder
set downe) to your gracious consideration, and we offer
them out of the greatest loyaltie , and dutie that sub-
jects can bear to their Prince . Most humbly and instant-
ly beseeching your Majestie, aswell for justice sake (more
then which (as we conceiuie) in these Petitions we doe
not seek) as also for the better assurance of the state, and
generall repose of your faithfull & loving subiects , and
for testimonie of your gracious acceptation of their full
affection, declared aswell by their joyfull receiuing of
your Majestie, at your happy entrance into this kingdom,
which you have been often pleased, with favour, to re-
member ; as also by their extraordinarie contributions
graunted since unto you, such as haue been never yeild-
ed to any former Prince, upon the like termes , and oc-
casions, that we may receive to these our complaints your
most gracious answer ; which we cano doubt but will be
such, as to say be worthy of your princely selfe , and will
give satisfactiō, & great eōfort to all your loyall, and most
dutifull loving subiects, who doe, and will ever pray for
the happy preservation of your most roiall Majestie .

New Im- **T**he policie and constitution of this your
positions. The kingdome appropriates unto the Kinge of
this Realme , with the assent of the Parliament ,
as well the soveraigne power of making lawes ,
as that of taxing , or imposing upon the subiects
goods, or merchandizes . Wherein they haue
justly such a propriete, as may not , without
their

their consent, be altered, or changed. This is the cause, that the people of this Kingdome, as they ever shewed themselves faithfull, and loving to their Kings, and ready to ayde them in all their just occasions, with voluntarie contributions, so have they beene ever carefull to preserue their owne liberties and rights, wher any thing hath beene done to prejudice or impeach the same. And therefore when their Princes occasioned cyther by their warres or their over great bountie, or by any other necessitie, haue, without consent of Parliament, set impositions, cyther within the land, or upon commodities cyther exported, or imposed by the Merchantes, they have, in open Parliament, complained of it, in that it was done without their consent. And thereupon never failed to obeyne a spedie, and full redresse without any claime, made by the Kinges of any power, or prerogative in that point. And though the lawes of proprietie be originally, and carefully preserved by the common lawes of this Realme, which are as ancient as the kingdome it selfe; yet chiefe famous Kings, for the better contentement, and assurance of their loving subiects, agreed, that this old fundacionall right should be further declared, and established by act of Parliament. Wherein it is provided, that no such charges should ever be layd upon the people, without their common consent, as may appear by sundry records of former times. Wee therefore your Majesties most humble commons assembled in Parliament following the example of this worthy care of our ancestors, and onera of a dutie of those for whome we serue, finding that your Majestie without advise or consent of Parliament, hitherto, in time of peace, set both greater impositions, and farre more in number, then any your noble ancestors did ever, in time

of warre, have with all humilitie presumed to present
this most iust, and necessarie Petition unto your Ma:.
That all impositions set without the assent of Parliament
may be quite abolished, and taken away; and that your
Majestie in imitation likewise of your noble Progenitors,
wilbe pleased, that a law may be made during this sessi-
on of Parliament, to declare that all impositions set, or
to be set up by your people their goods or merchandizes;
saued onely by common consent in Parliament, are, and
shalbe void. Wherein your Ma: shal nor onely give your
subjectes good satisfaction in point of their right, but al-
so bring exceeding joy, and comfort to them which now
suffer, partly through the abaring of the price of native
comodities, & partly through the raising of all forraign,
to the overthrow of Merchants and shipping, the cau-
sing of a generall dearth, & decay of wealth among your
people, who wilbe thereby no lesse discouraged, then
disabled to supply your Majesties occasion that require it.

Cōmis. **W**heres by the statute 1. Eliz. cap. 1. in-
tituled an Act restoring to the crown the
ancient jurisdiction over the state eccl-
esiastical, &c. power was given to the
Queene, and her successors to constitute,
and make a Commission in cause ecclesi-
astical, the said Act is found to be incon-
venient, of dangerous extent in divers re-
spects. First, for that it inableth the
said to make such a cōmission as wel to any
one subject borne, as to more. Secondly,
for that whereas by the intention, and
wordes of the syd statute, ecclesiastical
jurisdiction is restored to the crown, and
your highnes

highnes, by that statute enabled to give only such power ecclesiastical to the sayd commissioners, yet under colour of some words in that statute, wherby the Commissioners are authorised to execute their Commission according to the tenour, and effect of your highnes letters patentes. And by letters patentes grounded thereupon, the sayd Commissioners doe fine, and imprison, and exercise other authoritie not belonging to the ecclesiasticall jurisdiction restored by that Statute, which we conceive to be a great wrong to the subiect; And that those Commissioners might as well by colour of those words, if they were so authorized by your highnes letters patens, fine without kyne, and imprison without limitation of time, as also according to will, and discretion, without any rules of law, spirituall or temporall, adiudge and impose unter confiscacon of goods, forfeiture of lands, yea, and the taking away of limme and of life it selfe; & this for any matter whatsoever perteyning to spirituall jurisdiction. Which never was, nor could be meant by the makers of that law. Thurdly for that by the said Statute the King, and his successors may (howsoever your Maiesie hath been pleased out of your gracious disposition otherwise to order) make, and direct such Commission into all the Countys, and Dioceses, yea into every parish of England, and thereby all causes may be taken from ordinarie iurisdiction of Bishops, Chancellors, and Arch deacons, and lay men solely be inabled to excommunicate, & exercise all other creatures spirituall. Fourthly for that every pety offence perteyning to spirituall jurisdiction, is, by colour of the sayd wordes, and letters Patentes grounded thereupon, made subiect to excommunication and punishment by that strange and exorbitant power, and commission, whereby the least offenders,

offenders, not committynge anything of any enormous, or high nature may be drawne from the most remote places of the kingdome to London; or York, which is very grievous, and inconuenient. Fisly for that limite, touching causes subject to this eomission, being onely with these words, viz. Such as pertaine to spirituall or ecclesiasticall jurisdiction, it is very hard to knowe, what matters, or offences are included in that number. And the rather because it is unknown, what ancient canons, or lawes spirituall are in force, & what not: from whence ariseth great incertaintie, and occasion of contention.

And whereas upon the same Statute a eomission ecclesiasticall is made; Therein is grievance apprehended thus. First for that thereby the same man have both spirituall and temporall jurisdiction, and may both force the party by oath to accuse himselfe of an offence, & also to inquire thereof by a jurie, and lastly may inflict for the same offence, at the same time, and by one and the same sentence, both a spirituall and temporall punishment. Secondly whereas, upon sentences of deposition, or other spirituall censures given by force of ordinary jurisdiction, an appeal lyeth for the partie grieved, that is here excluded by expresse wordes of the eomission. Also heretofore a tryall by jury, yet no remedy by traverse, nor attitit. Neyther can a man haue any waie of errour, though a Judgement or sentence be given against him, abhoyting to the taking away of all his goodes, & imprisonding him during life, yea so the adjudging him in the case of Preremunire, whereby his lands are forfeyted, and he out of the protection of the lawe. Thirdly, that whereas penal lawes, and offences against the same cannot be determined in other courts, or by other persons,

sions, then by those trusted by Parliament with the execution thereof, yet the execution of many such statutes (diverse whereof were made since 1. Eliz.) are commended and committed to these Commissioners ecclesiastical, who are either to inflict the punishment concyng in the Statutes being preuaire, and of other high nature, and so to inforne a man upon his own oath to accuse, & expose himself to these punishments, or els to inflict other temporall punishment at their pleasure. And yet besides, and after that done, the partie shalbe subiect in the Courtes mentioned in the Acts, to punishments by the same actes appointed and inflicted; which we think very vntreasonable. Fourthly, that the commission giveth authority to inforne men called into question to enter into recognisance not onely for appearance frō time to time, but also for performance of whatsoever shalbe, by the commissioners ordered. And also that it giveth power to enioyne parties defendant, or accused, to pay such fees to ministers of the court, as by the commissioners shall be thought fit.

And touching the execution of the commission, it is found grievous these wayes among other. First for that laymen are by the Commissioners punished for speaking (otherwise then in iudicall places, and courses) of the synonic and other misdemeanours of spirituall men, though the thing spoken be true, & the speach tending to the inducing of some condigne punishment. Secondly in that these commissioners usually appoint and allow to women discontented at, and unwilling to live with their husbands such portions, & allowances for present maintenance, as to them shall seeme fit: to the great encouragement of wives to be disobedient, and contumacious against their husbands. Thirdly, in that their

Pur-

pursuivances, or other ministers employed in the apprehension of suspected offenders in anythings spirituall, & in the searching for any supposed scandalous booke, vise to breake open mens houses, closets, & deskes, rifling all corners, and secret custodies; as in cases of high treason, or suspition thercol. All which premises among other things considered, your Majesties most loyall, and dutifull commandments, in all humblenes, beseech you, that for the easing of them, aswell from the present grievance, as from the feare, and possibility of greater in tymes future; your highnes would vouchsafe your roiall assent, and allowance to, and for the ratifying of the saide Statute and the reducing thereof, and consequently of the saide commission to reasonable, and convenient limits, by some act to be passed in this present session of Parliament.

Procla. Amongst many other pointes of happiness, & freedome which your Majesties subjects of this kingdome have injoyed under your royll Progenitors, Kings and Queenes of this Realme, there is none which they have accounted more deere, and precious then this, to be guided, and governed by the certaine rule of the law (which giveth both to the head, and members, that which of right belongeth unto them) and not by any vncertaine or arbitrary forme of government. Which, as it hath proceeded from the originall good constitution, and temperature of this estate, so hath it been the principall meanes of upholding the same in such sort, as that their Kings have beeene just, beloved, happy & glorious, and the kingdome it selfe peaceable, flour-

sting and durable so many ages. And the effect, aswell
of the contentment that the subjects of this king-
dome haue taken in this forme of gouernment, as al-
so of the love, respect, and dutie which they have,
by reason of the same, rendered unto their Princes,
may appeare in this, That they haue, as occasion
hath required, yeelded more extraordinarie and vo-
luntary contributions to affist their Kings, than the
subjects of any other knowne kingdom whatsoeuer.
Out of this roote hath growen the indubitable righte
of the people of this kingdom : not to be made
subject to any punishment, that shall extend to their
lives, landes, bodies, or goodes, other then such, as
areordeyned by the common lawes of this land, or the
statutes made by their common consent in Parlia-
ment. Neverthelesse it is apparant both that
proclamations haue beene, of late yeares, much more
frequent, then heretofore, and that they are exten-
ded, not onely to the libertie, but also to the goods,
inheritances, and livelihood of men, some of them
tending to alter some points of the lawe, and make
a newe. Other some made, shortly after a session
of Parliament, for matter directly rejected in the same
session ; other appointing punishments to be inflic-
ted before lawfull triall, and conviction, Some co-
tenyng penalties in forme of penall statutes : Some
referring the punishment of offenders to the courts
of arbitrary discretion, which haue layd heavie and
grievous censures vpon the delinquents : Some,
as the Proclamation for starch, accompanied with
Letters commaunding inquierie to be made against
the transgressors, at the quarter sessions : and some
other proclamations to prevent abuses and youching

vouching former proclamations to eouisenance, and
 warrant the lates, as by a catalogue here vnder written
 more particularly appeareth. By reason whereof there
 is a generall feare conceived, and spread amongst your
 Maiesties people, that proclamations will, by degrees,
 grow vp, and increase to the strength, and nature of
 lawes. Wherby, not onely that ancient happyngs, free-
 dome wilbe much blemished (if not quite taken away)
 which their ancestors haue so long inioyed; but the same
 may also (in proces of time) bring a new forme of arby-
 trary government vpon the Realme. And this their
 feare is the more increased by occasion aswel of certeyn
 bookez lately published, which ascribe a greater power
 to Proclamatiōns then heretofore hath beene conceived
 to belong unto them ; as also of the care taken to re-
 duce all the proclamations, made since your Maiesties
 reigne, into one volume; and to print them in such
 forme as Acts of Parliament formerly have been, & still
 are used to be : which seemeth to imply a purpose to
 give them more reputation and more establishment, then
 heretofore they haue had. Wee therefore your Ma-
 iesties humble subiects the commons in this Parliament
 assembled, taking these matters into our considerati-
 ons, and weighing how much it doth conuerne your
 Maiestie, both in honour and safetie, that such impressi-
 ons should not be suffered to settle in your subiects
 mindes, haue thought it to apperteyne to our dutyes, as
 well towards your Maiestie; and to those that haue tri-
 fled, and sent us to this service, to present unto your
 Maiesties view these feares, and griefs of your people &
 to become huble suiteris unto your Maiestie, that hence
 forth no fine, or forseyse of goods, or other pecuni-
 ry, or corporall punishment may be inflicted upon your
 subiects

subjects (other thā restraint of liberty, which wee also humbly beseech may be, but upon urgent necessity, and to continue but till other order may be taken by course of law) vnlesse they shall offend against some law or statute of this realme in force, at the tyme of their offence committed. And for the greater assurance, & comfort of your people, That it will please your Majestie to declare your royll pleasure to that purpose, either by some law to be made in this sessiō of Parliamēt: or by some such other course (whereof your people may take knowledge) as to your Princely wisedome shall seeme most convenient.

Proclamations importing alterations of some points of the law, and making new.

11. Ian. 1. Iac. f. 57. forbiddeth choosing of Knights, & burgesses bankrupt, or outlawed: and commandeth choise of such, as are noe only taxed to subsidies, but also have ordinarily payed, and satisfied the same, f. 59. If returnes be made contrary to the proclamation, they are to be rejected, as vnlawfull, and insufficient. f. 60.

25. Aug. 5. Ia. f. 151. That the proclamation shalbe a warrant to any officer, or subject to seise starch, and to dispose, or destroy any starch &c. and restrineth all men not licenced to make starch. f. 154.

2. A Proclamation made shortly after
C Parliament

Parliament for matter directly rejected the precedent session.

1. Mar. 1. I. f. 102. A proclamation for building with brick after a bill to that end rejected.

2. Proclamations touching the freehold, and livelihood of men. 16. Septemb. 1. I. 2. f. 41. Raising and pulling downe howses au-thorised, and prohibition to build them againe at any tyme. f. 41. 12. Oct. 5. Ia. f. 160. forbidding building and taking away the materials, and appointing the owners land to be let by other men, at what price they please. f. 161.

4. Proclamations referring punishment to be done by Justices of peace, Majors, Bailiyes, Constables, & other Officers; or seuerance by persons who have no autorite to require, heare, and determine of those offences. So it is to be inflicted before lawfull triall & cō-
viction.

8. Ian. 2. Ia. f. 72. A Proclamation for fold-ing wooles. 23. Aug. 5. Ia. f. 151. seuerance of starch, &c. f. 154.

5. Proclamations penned with penalties in forme of penal Statutes.

4. No. 3. Ia. f. . Painc of confisca-tion of goods, f. 56. 18. Ian. 2. Ia. f. 72. Ten dayes imprisonment & standing in the pil-lory, f. 73. Justices of peace to forfeyt

20. pounds if they see not the Proclamation
of folding wooles executed, £ 75.

23. Aug. 5. Ia. f 151. forfeiture of one moi-
tie of starch &c. sealed &c. 154.

6 Punishment of offenders in courts of
arbitrary discretion, as Starre chamber,

1. Mar. 2. Ia. f. 102. Proclamation for
building. f. 103. 12. Oct. 5. Ia. 159 Pro-
clam. for building, f. 160. 5. Jul. 6. Ia.
f. 177. Procl. for starch, f. 180. 25. Jul.
6. Ia. f. 180. Procl for building, f. 181.

7. Proclam former become Presidents,
and vouch'd in later Proclam.

18 Jun. 2. Ia. f. 75. avoucheth 1. E. 6. &
4. Eliz. f. 73. 25. Jul. 6. Ia. f. 180. men-
tioned former Proclam. against buildings, &
explaineth, and qualifieth them, f. 180.

Your Majesties commons in this session of Stay of
Parliament assembled, doe cheerefully ac- writes of
knowledge the spring and fountaine of the publicke justice of this state, to be originally prohibiti-
on, &c.
in your Ma: from the benefite therof is con-
veyed, and derived into every member of
this politique body by your Highnes writs.
Amongst which none are more honourable
for the support of the common justice of the
realm, then the writes of prohibition,
habeas corpus, & de homine replegiando:

C 2 which

writs have been ever held, and found to be a chief meane of relief vnto the poore distressed, and oppresed subjects of this kingdome, and can be no inconvenience at all. Seing they are no way conclusive agaist any man, and doo draw no benefit to the procurers, but rather a fruitless charge, if they be obtained vpon any vnjust ground, or pretence. In the free granting of, & proceeding vpon some of which writs, especially that of prohibition; there hath of late, been obserued to be some obstruction: by reason, that vpon the complainants and the importunity of some, who desire the support of inferiour courts, against the principall courts of the common law (wherewith your Majestie hath been greatly troubled) you have taken into your roiall consideration the severall extens of the jurisdiction of the sayd severall courts. Since which time the said writs have been more sparingly, graunted, and with stricter cauious then anciently hath been accustomed. It is therefore most humbly desired, that it may please your Majestie (whose glory is never more cōspicuous, then when the poorest of the commonalty are blessed with the influence of the ancient beames of justice) to require your judges, in the courts of Westminister, to grant the said writs, in cases wherein such writs doe lye, and by law are grantable: And in such sort, as that such persons, whose bodies being eyther cōmitted

mittit to prison, or their causes like to receive great prejudice by proceedings against them, in times of vacation, may not be debarred nor deferred from hauing the speedy relief & benefice of those writes, more then in former times.

Forasmuch as the exercise of authoritie over the counties of Gloucester Hereford Wigorne and Saloppe, by the president, & councell of Wales by way of instructions, vpon pretext of a statute made in the 34. yeare of the reigne of King Henry the 8. is conceived not to be warranted by that or any other lawe of this Realme of England. And for that in the 2. session of this present parliament, there did a bill passe the house of the Commons, whereby it was declared that the true intent, and meaning of that before mentioned statute, was not thereby to subject these countries to that kind of government by instructions. And yet notwithstanding the inhabitaſts of those Countries are ſince utterly discouraged, and in effect, debarred from triall of the right of that kind of jurisdiction over those countries, by the ordinarie course of the common lawes of this land; by reaſon of Prohibitions, which were heretofore frequently granted (vpon ſuggeſtione, that those countries are not part of Wales or of the marches of the ſame (which is the very point in queſtion) are now become very hard to

be obteyned, except in cases, where those
of that councell doe exceed the instructions
set downe to them by your Majestie. As
also for that, in cases, where actions have
been brought at the common law, whereby
that question might haue come to diction,
the plainefes haue been stopped, sometimes
by injunctions out of your Majesties court of
Chancery, from their proceedings sometime
before, sometime after judgement, and some
time also by imprisonment. The precedent
of which proceedings doth concern all your
Majesties louall and dutifull subiects of this
kingdome, as well in respect of the stopping
of the free course of iustice : as also, by
reason that if that kinde of jurisdiction were
at first extended over those 4. countys, and
be now still continuall without warrante of
law, then consequence of this example
may, in future times, give countenance to
the erecting of like jurisdictions in other
places of this Realme. And forasmuch
as your Majestie was pleased to commau'd
all the Judges to consider of this question,
and that they thereupon bestowed very ma-
ny dayes in hearing the cause argued by
learned counsaile on both sides. And in
viewing and considering of great numbers
of recordes produced before them, concer-
ning that cause : whereby, they have (no
doubt) throughly informed themselves of
the right. It is therefore the most
humble

humble petition of the commons in this present Parliament assembled, that your most excellent Majestie will also be pleased to command, that the Judges may deliver their opinion upon that so exact, and deliberate hearing, which was had before them, concerning the right of the foresayd jurisdiction over those 4. Countys by force of that statute. And that the opinion which they shall deliver therein, may be in such sort published, as that all your Majesties subjects whome it may concerne may have meanes to take knowledge thereof. And that your Ma: will vouchsafe to declare it by your most princely pleasure, that any of your Majesties subiects who may have occasion thereof may trye his, or their right in that point by due, and ordinarie course of the common lawe, cyther by suing out of prohibitions, or any other your Majesties writs without restraint. And that if the sayd jurisdiction over those 4. Countys shall appeare to your Majestie, by the opinion of the Judges, or otherwise, not to be warranted by law, that then your Majestie be pleased out of your most princely and gracious favour towards all your loyall, and dutifull subiects, to order the ceasing of the sayde jurisdiction over those countys, to the great comfort of the inhabitants of those countys, and the rest of your Majesties subiects of all the kingdome.

New drapery.

Complaint was made, in all humble manner, the second session of this present Parliament, of many disorders, outrages, & oppressions committed upon occasion of letters patent granted to the Duke of Lennox, for the searching, and sealing of stuffs, and manufactures, called by the name of new draperie: which patent wee held in all, or the most partes of it, to be questionable, and in many apparantly vnlawfull: and the execution thereof we found stretched by the farmers, and deputies beyond the extent of the sayd letters patents, as appeares in the particulars set downe in the said greivance. To whiche it pleased your Majestie to give this gracious answer, that the validitie of the sayd patent should be left to be judged by the law. And whensoever any abuse arising in the execution thereof should appearre, it should be severely punished. Which was, for that time, to our good satisfaction: yet finding, by divers complaints made now in Parliament, that not only the said letters patent are still in force, and the validity of them undecided by iudgement: but disorders in the execution of them are so farre off from being reformed, that they multiply every day to the grievance of your Maiesties subiects. And those of the poorer sort, who exercising these manufactures are subiect to much oppression, to the great hindrance of some, & utter

utterundoing of many as hath appeared in
the particularities of the complaints presen-
ted unto us. Our humble desire is, that your
Maj: wilbe pleased, according to your former
resolutiō, to give order, that this cause, which
hath thus long hung in suspence, be speedily
brought to judgement : and that before all
the Judges, because it concerne all the sub-
iects of the land. And, in the meane time,
that the execution of the said letters pa-
tents, so farre forth as they concerne the said
new draperies, may be suspended till judge-
ment be given : whereby your subiects,
who doe in all humilitie present this grie-
vance unto your Majestie may be relieved,
& have no occasion to reiterate their com-
plaints.

Whereas by ancien, and late statutes it
hath been enacted, that wines should be
tayled at such lowe rates, and prices,
as for these 50 years last past they could
not be affoarded. And for redresse there-
of, it was ordeyned by a statute, in the
5. years of the late Queene Elizabeth, that
(those former lawes notwithstanding) wines
might be soldē at such prices, as by Procla-
mation from time to time to be made by
consent of divers great officers, should be
published, and set downe : which procla-
matio nevertheless, the late Queen, & your
most excellent Maj: have been drawn to for-
bear, upō the earnest suite of certein persons,

*License of
Wines.*

A s who therein

therin only intended their private gaine :
By reason whereof, both great summes of mo-
ny in fines, rentes, and annuall paymēnts
have been gotten, and rayfed vnto the said
persons, and their assignes, and great damage
and prejudice hath likewise fallen, and light
vpon your people, not onely by enhancing
the prises of wines, licencynge over many Ta-
vernes, and appointing of vnmeet persons,
in vnfit places, to keepe the same : But also
by reason that corrupt, mingled, evill, and
vnwholesome wines have been vittered, and
solde to the great hurt of the healsh of your
Highnes people. One man sometimes in-
grossing all the Licences designed for that
place : Wherupon complaint being made
to your Maiestie, amongst other grievances
of your people, in the second session of this
present Parliament, your Highnes was plea-
sed to answer, that your grants in that be-
halfe were no other, then such as were
warrantable by the law. Whereas the gre-
vance was the greater, for that all lawes, con-
cerning the sale of wines, being intended
and concived to stand, & be repealed, there
were nevertheless, by the oversighte of
them which were trusted in that busyness,
casually omitted, and left vnrepealed cer-
taine absolute lawes impossible to be obser-
ved : as namely one made in the time of K.
Edward the first, commanding wines to be
sold at 32. pence the sextarie, and one o-

ther made in the 28. of K. Henry the eight
prohibiting all persons, vnder penalty, to
sell any french wines above 8. pence the
gallon, and other wines, as sackes, and sweet
wines above 12. pence the gallon : and one
branch of a statute made in the 7. yeare of
K. Edward the 6. prohibiting men to sell
any wines by retaile in their howses.
Whervpon your Maiesty hath beene indu-
ced and drawne to ground new patentes of
dispensation, and to grant the benefit there-
of vnto the Lord Admirall : whereby the
like discommodities and inconveniences
have fithence infused vnto the common-
wealth as formerly did arise and growe vp-
on the other repealed lawes, whereof, in
the former petitions of your subiects exhib-
ited vnto your Maiesty in the sayd second
session, your highnes never had any direct,
and cleare information. May it therefore
please your most excellente Maiesty at the
humble request of your commons (who
have taken into consideracion the great
charges, and expences, which the sayd L.
Admirall hath beene at, in your Maiesties
service, and have considered likewise the
present licences, and grants for valuable
consideration vnto many hundredth of your
Highnes subiects, which without great
losse to the sayd grantees, cannot be so
suddenly made voide) out of your Princely
wisdom, and goodnes, wherein you have
professed

professed not to extend, & straine your prerogative royall against the publique good of your people, for the particular gainc of any private persons, To vouchsafe, that from hence forwards, there may no mo granteis, of that nature, be made vnto any of your subiects whomsoever. But that the syd statute of 5. Elizabeth, for the apprising of wines, to be published by proclamation, as time, and occasion shall require, may be put in execution. And that your Maiestie will likewise vouchsafe to grant your royall assent to a bill of repeale of the syd obsolet statutes, and all other, wherupon any such, *Non obstantes, & dispensations* might be grounded vpon. In which statute of repeale proviso shalbe made for the indemnitie of all such, as vnder your Maiesties great seal have alreadie procured licence for such sale of wines.

Alehousees

Whereas, by the lawes of this your Maiesties realme of England no taxes, aides, or impositiōs of any kunde whatsoever, ought, or can be laid, and imposed vpon your people, or upon any of their goods, or commodities, but onely by authority and consent of Parliament. Which being yndoubtedly the anciēt, and fundamētall law of the land, is yet, for more abundant clearnes expressly declared in sundry acts of Parliament, made and inacted in the time of sundry your Maiesties Progenitors, the nobleſt, & moſt prudent

prudent Kings of this Realme. Ynre comōs
with iust griefe doe complaine vnto your
Maiesie of the late taxe, and imposition laid,
and imposed yearly vpon such , as are al-
lowed to keepe victualing houses, or sell ale,
and beere bee retaile . Which imposition
not being taxed by assent of parliament, but
commanded, and directed onely by letters,
and instructions, your commons are perwia-
ded that the same proceeded rather vpon
misinformation , then by the direction, and
judgement of your owne most noble & roy-
all heart. Wherefore your said commons
knowing the griefe of your people in this
behalfe, do (according to their duties) in all
humilitie informe , and signify vnto your
Maiesie; first, that the said taxation being
singular , and without example, is in it
self a President of dangerous consequence,
and (as your people feare) may easilly (in
time) be extended further, as to badgers of
cornē, makers of malt, drovers of cattel, and
such like , who, in such sort , are to be li-
cenced by luffices of peace, as those persons
are, upon whom , at this time, this present
charge and tax is layd. Secondly such how-
ses, being often times at (the best) the har-
bours of idlenes, drunkennes, whoredome,
& all maner of felonies, the licences are now
(the honestest sort , in most places, refusing
to undergo the new charge) rented, & taken
by

by the loofer, and baser sort of people, who have no conscience how they gaine. By reason whereof all manner of vice, and evill behaviour is likely every day to encrease: neyther can the Justices of peace conveniently prevent the same: for that the persons licenced under the late contribution, affirme, with clamour, that they have a toleration for a yeare, and that such persons are not friends unto the crowne, that seeke to supprese them, and thereby to diminish your highnes reuenewes. Thirdly many Justices of peace, (being sworne to execute their office) which for this particular they conceive to be, that alehouse keepers formerly licenced, are not to be suppressed without just, and reasonable cause, cannot be satisfied touching their layd oath, but are much distracted, and perplexed what to doe (the late instructions notwithstanding) against such persons, as otherwise being not knownen to be of evill behaviour, onely refuse to pay his late taxed and imposed sume of money. In consideration whereof, your humble cōmons most instantlē beseech your most excellēt Maiestie that the former letters, and instructions may be countermaunded, or stayed, and all further directions, and proceeding in that kinde forborene.

Seale.

Among many resemblances, which are observed to be between naturall and politique bodies, there is none more apt, and na-

turall then this, That the distastes of both doe not, at one instant, commonly last vp-on all partes ; but beginning in some one part, doe, by tract of time, and by degrees, get possession of the whole, unlesse by applying of wholesome and proper remedies, in due time, they be prevented. Which as it is in many things very visible : so it is in nothing more apparent, then in this matter of impositions : which beginning at the firste eyther with forreigne commodities brought in, or such of our owne, as were transported, is now extended to those commodities, whi h growing in this kingdome, are not transported, but uttered to the subjects of the same : for proofe whereof, wee doe, with all humilitie present unto your Ma: view the late imposition of 12. pence the chalder of seacole rising in Blith & Sunderland, not by vertue of any contract, or grant (as in the coales of New castle) but under a mere pretext of your Majesties most royall prerogative : which imposition is not onely grievous for the present (especial-
ly to thole of the poorer sort, the price of whose onely, and most necessarie fewell is thereby, to their great griefe, inhaunced) but dangerous also for the future ; con-
sidering that the reason of this presideng may be extended to all the commodities of this kingdome. May it therefore please
your most excellent Maiestie, who is the
great,

great, and soveraigne physition of this estate
to apply such a remedie as this disease may
be presently cured, and all diseases for tym
to come, of like nature, prevented.

*These grievances were presented to his Majesty with
the speech of Sir Fr. Bacon, by
12. of the lower house. & in
ly 1610. in the 4. session of
Parliament; & because the
King commanded 12. and
no more, &c.*